

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 SSM-03 SAA-01
SES-02 HA-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 /119 W
-----018952 310743Z /17

R 301225Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 97
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8283

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IR
SUBJ: POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND OPPOSITION: EXCURSION THROUGH BABEL

REF: A) TEHRAN 8191; B) TEHRAN 8083 (NOTAL); C) TEHRAN 8134(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOI NAMES NEW GENDARMERIE CHIEF AND KHORASSAN
PROVINCE GOVERNOR. GOI DENIES CONTACTS WITH KHOMEINI HAVE
TAKEN PLACE, BUT SAYS THEY WILL. RESURGENCE PARTY (RPPI)
STRIPPED OF SUBSIDY, GETS NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL.
IRANIAN NATIONAL FRONT DEMANDS SAVAK BE DISSOLVED AND
POLITICAL PRISONERS BE RELEASED AND REJECTS COMPROMISE WITH
SHARIF-EMAMI GOVERNMENT. OVER TEN OPPOSITION PARTIES ANNOUNCED,
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MOST HAVE ONLY A FEW ADHERENTS. NEW GOI PROGRAMS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.
END SUMMARY.

1. MORNING AUGUST 30 PRESS ANNOUNCED GENERAL AHMAD ALI MOHAQEHI HAS
BEEN NAMED TO HEAD IRAN'S GENDARMERIE AND SEYED MOHAMMAD SARAJI
HEJAZI WAS APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF KHORASSAN PROVINCE (MASHAD). MOHAQEHI

IS A CAREER OFFICER WITH A GOOD REPUTATION. HEJAZI HAS BEEN A SENATOR

AND IS A LONG-TIME CONFIDENT OF SHARIF-EMAMI FROM THEIR DAYS TOGETHER
ON THE BOARD OF A GERMAN IMPORT ORGANIZATION IN IRAN. HEJAZI REPORTEDLY

HAS EXCELLENT RELIGIOUS CONTACTS IN
MASHAD. MORE COMPLETE BIO INFO WILL BE PROVIDED LATER.

2. ONE OF FIRST GOI EXPERIMENTS WITH PRESS FREEDOM RESULTED
IN CONFUSION WHEN SOME FARSI PAPERS AUGUST 29 SAID CONTACTS
BETWEEN AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI AND NEW GOI HAD ALREADY TAKEN
PLACE. MORNING PRESS AUGUST 30 CARRIED GOI SPOKESMAN'S
CONFIRMATION THAT GOI INTENDED TO CONTACT KHOMEINI BUT
HAD NOT YET DONE SO. FARSI ETTELA'AT HAD ALREADY SPECULATED
FURTHER THAN KHOMEINI HAD ALREADY REJECTED COMPROMISE WITH
GOI, BUT BEST INFO HERE IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT
YET FROM NAJAF (KHOMEINI'S PLACE OF EXILE IN IRAQ).

3. RESURGENCE PARTY ALSO SUBJECT OF CONFUSION WHEN FIRST
REPORTS INDICATED EX-PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR HAD RESIGNED
AS SECRETARY GENERAL (REF A). THIS PRESS REPORT WAS DENIED
AUGUST 29, AND APPOINTMENT OF DR. JAVAD SA'ED AS NEW
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WAS ANNOUNCED. THE 54-YEAR OLD
PHYSICIAN HAS BEEN LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN THE RPPI POLI-
TICAL BUREAU AND PARLIAMENT, AND HAS SERVED SEVERAL PARLIA-
MENTARY TERMS. HE WAS ALSO DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE NOW-DEFUNCT
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IRAN NOVIN PARTY. HE WOULD TAKE OVER AS HEAD OF RPPI IF
AMOUZEGAR RESIGNS AS EXPECTED. RPPI RECIEVED ANOTHER BLOW WHEN
IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT PARTY WOULD LOSE ITS GOVERNMENT
SUBSIDY. PRIME MINISTER HAD ALREADY SAID HE WOULD NOT BE MEMBER
OF RPPI, AND GOI SPOKESMAN HAD ANNOUNCED IT WOULD NO LONGER BE
IRAN'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT NOW EVEN SHAH
WILLING TO ADMIT THAT RPPI NEVER MADE IT, AND UNLESS SOME MODERATE
GROUP AROUND PRESENT GOVERNMENT SEIZES REMAINING BULK FOR ITS OWN PUR-

POSES, RPPI IS LIKELY TO SLOWLY WEAKEN TO MINOR SINGNIFICANCE.

4. IRANIAN NATIONAL FRONT (INF), WHICH RECONSTITUTED IT-
SELF AUGST 23 (REFTEL B), CALLED FOR DISSILUTION OF SAVAK,
IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND ABOLITION
OF ALL MILITARY TRIBUNALS. IN COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AUGUST
30, INF ALSO REJECTED COMPROMISE WITH SHARIF-EMAMI GOVERN-
MENT AND CALLED FOR FUEL FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS,
AND POLITICAL PARTIES. INF ALSO ASKED THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE
FOR RECENT KILLINGS IN COUNTRY SHOULD BE PUNISHED, EXILES
SHOULD BE ENDED, AND BALCKLISTED IRANIAN DISSIDENTS BE
ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME. KEY SPOKESMEN FOR THIS GROUP ARE
KARIM SANJABI AND DARIUSH FOROUHAR, BUT OPPOSITION FIGURES

KAZEM HASIBI, MEHDI BAZARGAN, AND REZA SHAYAN (ALSO CHIEF OF VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT SOCIALIST PARTY) HAVE ALSO PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED THEMSELVES INF MEMBERS.

4. RUNDOWN OF OTHER ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION GROUPS GIVEN BELOW, TAKE FROM LOCAL PRESS:

- A) THE RADICAL MOVEMENT LED BY RAHMATOLLAH MOQADAM
 - B) THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT LED BY MEHDI BAZARGAN AND YADOLLAH SAHABI
 - C) THE LABOURERS PARTY LED BY MOZAFAR BAQAIEE KERMANI
 - D) THE PAN-IRANIST PARTY LED BY MOHSEN PEZESHKPOUR
 - E) THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH WILL BE FORMED BY MAJLIS DEPUTY ADMAD BANI AHMAD
 - F) AN INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENT ORGANIZED AND HEADED BY PROMINENT WRITER HAJ SYED JAVADI
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- G) THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE IRANIAN CONSTITUTION LED BY SYED MEHDI PIRASTEH
- H) THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONALISTS LED BY FAZLOLAH SADR AND DR. ZARRINPOUR
- I) THE ISLAMIC LIBERAL PARTY LED BY DR. SEIFEDDIN NABAVI
- J) THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF IRAN FORMED BY ALAMIR DAVALOO
- K) THE ARYA SOCIALIST PARTY HEADED BY HADI SEPEHR.

5. BULK OF THESE GROUPS ARE ELITIST PARTIES WITH FEW ADHERENTS. REF C GIVES BACKGROUND OF CENTRISTS GROUP LED BY PIRASTEH: EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOPE INFO ON OTHERS WHO SHOW SIGNS OF LIFE.

6. COMMENT: CACAPHONOUS SOUND YOU WILL HEAR FROM IRAN IS THE NEW POLITICAL PROCESS BEGINNING. MOST PARTIES HAVE BARELY ANNOUNCED THEIR EXISTENCE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY INF HAS PUT FORWARD A PROGRAM. MOST OPPOSITIONISTS ARE STILL BIDDING THEIR TIME OR TEMPORIZING UNTIL NEW CABINET GETS DOWN TO SPECIFICS ON ITS POLICIES, THIS IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MAJLES SESSION WEEK OF SEPT 4. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN08283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780355-0876
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978086/aaaaaevh.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c048762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEHRAN 8191, 78 TEHRAN 8083, 78 TEHRAN 8134
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1725555
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND OPPOSITION: EXCURSION THROUGH BABEL
TAGS: PGOV, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c048762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014